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1823

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APPEAL

OF

A FREE SPANIARD

TO THE

LIC OPINION OF EUROPE;

EXHIBITING TRAITS OF

Unexampled and Unchristian Perfidy

ON THE PART OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

TOWARDS SPAIN,

IN CONNECTION WITH THE INSURRECTION, CIVIL WAR, AND
POSTERIOR REVOLUTION,

AND THE CALAMITIES OF PESTILENCE.

THE NAME OF A PHYSICIAN OF BARCELONA,

WITH A PREFACE AND NOTES,

A MEMORIAL OF THE SPANISH AND GREEK
HUMANITARIAN COMMITTEES.

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attracted ... the Occurrences of 1821, by the Municipality of

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BY AGGRAVATING THE CALAMITIES OF PESTILENCE.

FROM THE MANUSCRIPT OF A PHYSICIAN OF BARCELONA,

With a Preface and Notes,

BY A MEMBER OF THE SPANISH AND GREEK
METROPOLITAN COMMITTEES.

"The fever of this year will be celebrated, and give rise to great discussions in Europe."—*Succinct Relation of the Occurrences of 1821, by the Municipality of Barcelona.*

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR EFFINGHAM WILSON, 88, ROYAL
EXCHANGE;

AND MAY BE HAD OF ALL OTHER BOOKSELLERS.

1823.

ALP7214

LONDON :

Printed by D. S. Maurice, Fenchurch Street.

PREFACE BY THE TRANSLATOR.

"The dawn revives : renown'd, romantic Spain
Holds back the invader from her soil again."

It is on the soil of Spain, that the question is destined to be determined, whether freedom or despotism shall, for the present, prevail in Europe. I say, "for the present," because, if, as the result of the struggle, despotism should unfortunately, for a while, be established on this, there is still no danger to be reasonably apprehended, notwithstanding the late significant indications of Russia in the Pacific Ocean, that it will ever permanently fix its abode on the other side of the Atlantic ; or, that, by a natural reflux, liberty will not, in a certain time, return from the New World, simplified, invigorated, and refreshed, to re-gladden and re-fertilise the shores of Europe. But, as, in the calamitous event of the success of despotism, possible only by a shameful neglect of the duty which free nations owe to themselves, ages of darkness might intervene, in this portion of the globe, and it is impracticable for whole nations to remove into another hemis-

phere; prevention, is, in this case, as in every other, much better than cure.

If universal darkness, overspreading Europe, would be the inevitable consequence of the success of the coalesced despots, are not every other people of Europe equally interested with those of Spain, in averting so dreadful a calamity? Although theirs happens to be the post of honour, the only difference in their fate would be a slight priority of enslavement. Or, should we, on the chance that Spain, single-handed, will be more than a match for all the despotic league, lay by, with our hands folded, calmly viewing the contest, and afterwards reap our full share in the advantages of the victory; in selfishness, could any thing be baser, or, in risk, more criminal? However we may admit, that, in the conduct of governments and individuals, a difference, as to time, and mode of interference, may be expedient, one thing is certain, that that interference is the most seasonable, by which the greatest sum of bloodshed, and of misery, may be averted.

I here offer a translation of some reflections of an intelligent Spaniard, on the probable course of the contest, and on the interests and the duties, in regard to it, of every people, who yet enjoy, in any degree, the liberty of speech and of action; preceded by what appears to me to be a very interesting detail of the perfidious proceedings of the French government, towards Spain, in seeking to excite insurrection, civil war, and counter-revolution, by aggravating the calamities of pestilence. Without a full knowledge of this detail, it seems scarcely possible to have an adequate notion of the anti-

social nature of the views of that holy conclave; who have constituted themselves the misrulers of Europe, or of the iniquitous means, by which they do not scruple to carry those views into effect.

How often, from the want of an adequate perception of the manner, in which their interests are likely to be remotely affected by distant events, have states suffered the approaches to their liberties, or their independence, to be undermined, through those of other nations. Is it not to this cause, partly, that we ought to attribute the culpable supineness, the disgraceful apathy, with which the people of this country have hitherto beheld the unequal, but almost miraculously successful struggle, of the noble Greek nation; and that they have scarcely stirred a finger in favour of the gallant and much-injured people of Spain? If, in the last war, when Europe was only fighting for a choice of tyrannies—whether they should be clumsily fettered by a Louis, or splendidly enchained by a Napoleon—the first subscription raised for Spain, in England, amounted to a hundred thousand pounds, what ought the amount now to be, when she is fighting substantially, not only for her own liberties and independence, but for those of all the free nations of Europe?

Let us hope that the delay will be more than compensated, by the efforts of the Committees, which have at length been formed, in the metropolis, for the purposes of raising subscriptions, and giving effect to the expression of public opinion, in favour of the cause of Spain and Greece, and against that of their unprincipled invaders. Curiously, indeed,

must that mind be constituted, which would not earnestly desire, by deeds as well as words, to contribute to the emancipation of those renowned nations, even if that event could have remotely no favourable effect upon his own liberty, happiness, or prosperity. But, it is now, I believe, well and generally understood, excepting among despots, not only that the freedom, happiness, and prosperity of nations, are not, any more than those of individuals, incompatible; but, that they promote each other respectively. This must also be the case of the views of the Spanish and Greek committees. By good offices, as well as by emulation, they will mutually and powerfully aid each other. There is no clashing between them, either with respect to objects or means. To assist Spain, is to assist Greece; to assist Greece is to assist Spain. Spain is the advanced guard, as Greece is an out-post, and Britain, the main body of freedom in Europe, upon this occasion. For ultimate safety they are mutually dependant. Whether the combat be waged by Mahomedan against Christian, as in Greece; or by Christian against Christian—Catholic against Catholic, as in Spain, the contest always ultimately resolves itself into a struggle between despotism and freedom. In their glorious endeavours to consolidate their own freedom, and that of all Europe, these gallant nations have a positive and an equal right to the assistance of their fellow-creatures.

Branch committees will doubtless also be forthwith formed, for similar purposes, in every part of the united kingdom. The zeal and energy of these central and branch committees, and of the reflect-

ing and industrious part of the community, upon whose concurrence and co-operation they may confidently rely, will not fail to give activity, vigor, and an useful direction, I had almost said inspiration, to their exertions, in so sacred a cause. They will connect wise and prudent measures, for guiding into salutary channels the tide of genuine sympathy—of warm popular feeling—which runs so strongly, throughout this generous nation, among the religious and the literary classes especially, in favour of Greece, and among all classes of the community, almost without exception, in favour of Spain. It will be their study to ascertain and employ the most efficient methods of embodying and giving expression to public opinion—of impelling, as it were, into permanent activity, that irresistible moral power; as well as of administering prompt physical aid. Whether this should consist of honorary gifts of arms, ammunition, &c.; the services of persons expert in particular departments of war; facilities towards procuring loans; or what other species of assistance, will, of course, be matters for deliberate consideration.

With respect to facilitating loans for Spain and Greece, I may observe, that, whilst the public debt of Spain does not exceed fifty millions sterling, the value of her remaining national lands, estimated below the average rate of preceding sales, exceeds a hundred and sixty millions; and, that, as no other state is in so favourable a condition, Spain is, in fact, the richest nation in the world; although, from the surprising and unfounded want of confidence that prevails, respecting her stability, she is precluded

from the credit necessary to render her resources available. Would not the capitalists of other countries have in these national domains, a good security for their money? And, whilst, by such speculations, they might enrich themselves, would they not enable Spain the more speedily and easily to secure her own liberties, and the liberties of the world? The same observations hold good of Greece, with this farther advantage, that, whilst the state will have all the lands and other property that belonged to the Turks at her disposal, she has no debt whatever. Since emigration must take place from England, how much better would it be to direct its course to the fine and neighbouring regions of Spain and Greece, than to the distant and scarcely accessible countries of the Hottentots and Van Dieman's Land?

It would be most lamentable, if, whilst, on the one hand, the friends of freedom were straining every nerve, to promote the cause of humanity, by aiding Spain and Greece, there should be found, inhabiting this metropolis, a race of reptiles, in human shape, so vile, so wholly lost to shame, as to endeavour to increase the power of the enemies of mankind,—to facilitate their progress in the work of subjugation, by raising pecuniary loans for the French fanatic faction, or for any member of the coalition of despots. Unhappily, as the lenders, in such cases, may back out of the risk, by selling their shares to the public, should the public be silly enough to buy, their baseness, in the event of the overthrow of the borrowers, would not necessarily carry its punishment along with it; but the less

guilty speculators would suffer. Here then it is necessary, as no positive laws exist, that can reach such iniquitous acts—acts many millions of times worse than robbery or murder—that that absolute, but just, sovereign, public opinion, should interfere, and consign the culprits to present disgrace, and future execration. Their names, inscribed on pillars of infamy, should be handed down to distant generations.

As one of the moral means, which might perhaps with advantage be employed, upon this occasion, in the case of Spain, I would take leave to suggest the celebration, in a popular form, throughout the united kingdom, of the anniversary of the glorious 7th of July, 1822, which, by the memorable events that occurred at Madrid, put an end, in one day, to the hope, which had been so long cherished, of overthrowing the Spanish constitution, by insurrection and intrigue, and completely unmasked the views of the French government, and the holy alliance. The anniversary of the day, which destroyed the hope of the conspirators of Troppau, Laybach, and Verona, of enslaving mankind, is worthy of being commemorated throughout the world: and I do not believe that any measure can be devised, at least none has occurred to myself, better calculated to produce an electrical effect upon the minds of freemen, or to give permanent and irresistible force to public opinion, in favour of the cause of Spain, than the periodical solemnization of an occurrence at once so rare and important, as the defeat, by the spirit and valour of the municipality and militia of a single city, of a vast conspiracy

against freedom, to which all the despots of Europe had concurred with all their means to give organization and effect, and which had been in preparation for years.

Besides the results of the labours of committees, it may be expected, that, to the furtherance of so sacred a cause, men of talents, courage, disinterestedness, and enterprise, not only from Britain, but from all parts of Europe, and doubtless also from America, will contribute individually, and in their own manner, with their persons, their knowledge, or their purse. It would be a doubly holy crusade. In this mortal contest—this *guerre à mort*—this *bellum ad internecionem*, between freedom and despotism, Spain and Greece will become the theatres for the assemblage of the choicest spirits of the universe—theatres for the display of the intellectual and corporeal prowess of free and enlightened men, by exploits such as have never been surpassed, if they have ever been equalled, by the greatest nations, or in the first periods of the world.

APPEAL.

IN endeavouring to convey such information to the people of Europe, as may contribute to enable them to take a correct view of the existing conspiracy of kings against the liberties, happiness, and prosperity of nations, and duly to appreciate the character of the unprincipled and unprovoked invasion of the Spanish Peninsula, by the French armies, as the advanced guard of that conspiracy, I shall begin by a detail of some previous acts of refined turpitude, on the part of the invading government, which have been made mainly instrumental to that event, which are generally but little known and less understood, and with which I have personally had opportunities of being particularly acquainted. That this is not a war of government against government, or nation against nation, but of despotism against freedom, is so obvious to the whole world, that any arguments, in proof or confirmation of that assertion, would be at least superfluous. The Constitution of the Cortes, and the Monarchical principle (pure despotism) it was evident could not co-exist. In their unholy designs against the nascent liberties of Spain, the very elements, alluring them as it were to their destruction, seemed, for a time, to favour the views of the holy alliance. In the Autumn of 1821, a grievous pestilence afflicted the City of Barcelona, bringing calamities in its train, the horrors of which

might have softened the hearts, suspended the animosities, and excited the sympathies of ordinary barbarians; but to the holy alliance* they only afforded the opportunity, too tempting not to be embraced, of embittering the woes of a people, who had dared to break their chains, without the previous ceremony of obtaining a license from any of these self-constituted dispensers of the rights of man and of nations. The season for open hostility had not yet arrived. Pretexts for war were to be created. The pious task of exciting civil commotion, for the purpose of restoring despotism in Spain, was, with singular felicity, delegated by his brother potentates to Louis XVIII., who, it is notorious, was indebted for his crown, if not for his life, to the valour and perseverance of the Spanish people. This is a commentary on the virtues of that Monarch, which speaks volumes. We shall presently see how justly it was observed by the Municipality of Barcelona, although they were probably far from being aware of the full extent to which they were predicting truly, that "the fever of 1821 would be celebrated, and give rise to great discussions in Europe."

From the moment of the restoration of the Constitution of the Cortes in 1820, the diplomatists of the holy alliance, in concert with the native adherents of the ancient *regime*, commenced a series of intrigues for the restoration of despotism in Spain, which were never for an instant intermitted, and of which Madrid was the focus. Of these intrigues the French Government were the most active promoters, and their representative the almost acknowledged pivot, upon which all the conspiracies and insurrections in that country turned. By these and similar means great progress had been already made in corrupting the public functionaries, and preparing a counter-revolution, when the fever of Barce-

* "The blest alliance, which says three are all!
An earthly trinity! which wears the shape
Of Heaven's, as man is mimicked by the ape."

lona broke out, and was hailed with rapture by the ultra-fanatics of France. It gave them a sort of pretext for the first open and palpable step in the succeeding series of barefaced aggressions against the liberties and independence of Spain. Early in the month of September, 1821, they adopted that memorable measure of planting an army at the foot of the Pyrenees, under the appellation since become so ludicrous of "*Cordon Sanitaire*," and with the professed object of repelling by bayonets a contagion confessed to be invisible, and proved to be imaginary.

Respecting the motive or the object of this measure, no person of penetration was for a moment deceived. It was difficult to conceive, if a *Cordon Sanitaire* along the Bidassoa had not been deemed necessary to the safety of France, upon former occasions, when pestilence ravaged Cadiz, Seville, Malaga, or Carthagen, how it should have, all at once, become necessary in the case of a Barcelona pestilence? To unbiassed persons, this consideration alone would have been sufficient proof, that the *Cordon Sanitaire* was intended not for the protection of France, but the oppression of Spain. Whilst the neighbourhood of a French army would encourage the disaffected to rise in rebellion against the institutions of their country, the Lazarettos of Beobea and Belgrade would afford them shelter when beaten and obliged to fly the kingdom. This double system of perfidy was, in fact, carried into practice for upwards of a twelvemonth; besides the still more infamous practice, if possible, of the secret examination of the papers and letters of travellers, which I shall afterwards have occasion more fully to explain. Neither the notice given by the French Government, at the termination of the fever of Barcelona, that this *soi-disant* sanitary precaution would be continued for at least eight months longer, *i. e.* until September, 1822, nor the subsequent unblushing acknowledgement of M. Villèle of his own premeditated perfidy, were necessary to convince the public that such were the original

intentions of these measures. This notice served as a regular advertisement, and was, doubtless, so meant, to the fanatics, traitors, and banditti of Spain; that, in aid of their machinations against the institutions and liberties of their country, they would have the advantages arising from the vicinity and protection of a French army, for a certainty, for eight months longer; a period, which was then probably considered, by the despots of Europe, more than sufficient to enable the future Army of the Faith, with the assistance of the intrigues of their own diplomatists at the Court of Madrid, to overthrow the Constitution of the Cortes, and to restore the holy inquisition, together with every other legitimate blessing of the ancient *regime*.

The means thus resorted to for replunging Spain, through the horrors of anarchy and civil war, into the worse horrors of despotism, were of a nature so peculiarly atrocious—of such refined turpitude—as to merit a more minute examination than has hitherto been bestowed upon them. The cruelties with which the Turks have acted towards the Greeks is shocking to humanity. But even extermination is mildness, when compared to the prolonged sufferings, which may be inflicted, by aggravating the calamities of pestilence. The Turks too were endeavouring to repress what they considered a rebellion. They were in a state of actual war—open enemies of the faith and of the persons of the Greeks—and avowing the diabolical principle of extermination upon which they were acting; whilst the self-styled *most Christian* Government of France, by a chain of perfidy the most revolting, first endeavoured, under the masks of humanity and a love of science, to ruin a neighbouring and friendly nation, their fellow-Christians and fellow-Catholics; then had the insolence and effrontery to make a crime of the discord and agitations which their own measures had occasioned; and, finally, the wickedness to invade their country without provocation, in order to impose upon them a form of government which they detested.

The *Cordon Sanitaire* became, in fact, as was the intention, the rallying point, and support of all the priests, fanatics, smugglers, robbers, thieves, labourers thrown out of employment, and left destitute by the epidemic; and idle, profligate, and discontented persons, of every denomination, allured by the prospect of finding some immediate means of subsistence, without regular labour, to rebel, and to qualify themselves for being enrolled among the ranks of the self-styled army of the faith. Insurrection now assumed a sort of consistent form; and Catalonia especially, long famed among the provinces of Spain, for industry, patriotism, and knowledge, became, for a season, the chief focus of civil discord. Thus was a simulated desire to serve humanity and to promote science, rendered subservient to the infamous purposes of augmenting distress, and of exciting discontent and civil war, in a neighbouring and friendly nation, by aggravating the calamities of pestilence! Terror and dismay were increased; manufactures suspended; commerce obstructed; a manufacturing population thrown out of employment, and deprived of the means of subsistence; sickness and mortality extended; disaffection excited and cherished; and, with the aid of gold and diplomacy, the bands of the insurgents augmented. In their blind eagerness to put down freedom, or their panic terror at its proximity, the French fanatic faction did not foresee, that the bands of traitors, to whom they were thus giving origin, would serve to drill the constitutional troops of Spain, and to render them expert soldiers, whilst, this purpose being answered, it might not be an easy matter to raise the Cordon, which they had so imprudently planted; and the medium, by which they had contemplated the ruin of their neighbours, might ultimately become the principal means of their own fall. In fact, it may be doubted, whether the army of the Cordon, once established on the frontier, could, with safety to themselves, have been withdrawn into the interior at the pleasure of the French government; and

whether the war, which, sooner or later, must have been the inevitable result of the maintenance of such an armament, was not the consequence of the first criminal proceedings, rather than a measure of subsequent choice. Such are the perils created by madness or ambition; and commensurate may be the punishments which they will bring along with them!

Proceedings so unchristian and inhuman could not fail to excite the attention, the indignation, and the horror of civilized nations; and as, fortunately for mankind, the ultra fanatics of France could neither elude, nor afford to despise, the scrutinising eye of the great tribunal of public opinion, they found it necessary to cast about them for some systematic means of justifying the Sanitary Cordon. In this dilemma, they hit upon an expedient, which, although palpably the vilest of all this long series of vile intrigues, they doubtless flattered themselves would prove, by the aid of the prejudices which still so generally prevail, respecting the cause of epidemic diseases, completely triumphant,—the appointment of a medical commission, professedly to *succour* the inhabitants of Barcelona.

But, whilst such was the professed object of the appointment of this commission, its real objects, it clearly appears, must have been; 1. To justify to the world the perfidious measure of the *Cordon Sanitaire*; for the service of which a whole army had been placed along the frontier, in order to create and to support insurrection, civil war, and counter-revolution in Spain; and, if these means should not succeed, to be marched into her territory. 2. To create a pretext for the establishment of new lazarettos and new measures of Sanitary police along the whole line of frontier, by which travellers and their papers would be subjected to the operation of a permanent system of complete surveillance; and the rebels of Spain, when discomfited in the interior, received, sheltered, re-clothed, and re-vomited upon their native soil. 3. To contribute to produce sickness, mortality, insurrection,

civil war, and counter-revolution in Spain. 4. To consolidate and extend generally those appropriate engines of despotism, for the oppression and degradation of mankind, called Sanitary laws.

All these objects were to have been effected, as far as the commission was concerned, by reporting, true or false, the fever of Barcelona to be contagious; and could not be effected in any other manner: and, as they were objects of the utmost importance to despotism, is it not an inevitable inference, that the instructions to the commission from the government must have been to that effect? Their conduct at Barcelona, and that of the government, upon their return, are in farther proof of this inference. It is an evidence outweighing the oaths of all the ultras in the universe, as far as the universe outweighs a grain of sand. They did report in favour of the existence of contagion, contrary to the clearest evidence; and, for having so done, the government lavished titles and rewards upon them. For having endeavoured, with premeditation, to mislead the world, and to throw Spain into anarchy, insurrection, and counter-revolution, *i. e.* for having endeavoured to fulfil the intentions of their employers, they were rewarded with titles and pensions; and for having, *during a few weeks*, visited patients ill of yellow fever, as if this were not one of the most common occurrences in the world, or as if it had not been the daily practice, for *four months*, of almost all the medical men, and all the students, at Barcelona, they were, by the corrupt and enslaved French press, ridiculously exalted into heroes! Leonidas or Epaminondas could scarcely have been more extolled by their free countrymen for their truly illustrious deeds, than were these sorry commissioners, by the servile part of their countrymen, for acts, which were no less afflicting to humanity than they were disgraceful to science!

The very selection of the chief of this commission was *prima facie* evidence of its sinister objects. In

medico-political diplomacy, Dr. Pariset had had some previous training, during a similar mission to Cadiz in ; when, the Inquisition still existing in full activity in Spain, he found no difficulty, with the assistance of the Spanish physicians themselves (for those who were adverse were obliged to be silent), in prolonging the reign of the imposture, which he had been sent to maintain in its usurpation; and thus he succeeded, at little cost, in establishing, amongst superficial observers, an adventitious and transient reputation. At that period, it would have been certain destruction to any Spaniard, within the reach of its familiars, to be known openly to have renounced those favourite protégées of the holy inquisition, pestilential contagion, and Sanitary laws. In representing that doctrine and these laws as favourite protégées of the holy inquisition, and consequently appropriate implements of despotism and delusion, I do not speak upon slight or uncertain grounds. It is a curious fact, that, in Spain, whether in private society, or in legislative or municipal bodies, now that freedom of discussion prevails, servilism is to be found generally allied with the creed of pestilential contagion, and liberalism with its opposite. The treatment experienced from the inquisition by a respectable naval officer, yet living, Senor Armesto, is generally known, and here strictly in point. He published a work, calling in question the existence of contagion, in a fever which he had witnessed at Cadiz, and endeavouring inductively to explain its real causes. He was compelled by that tribunal, although they had previously given him permission to print it, to call in his work, and to disown his doctrines, under the penalties of imprisonment, and such other discipline as he might be subjected to by their caprice. In 1819, I was informed by a Spanish student of medicine, that, in consequence of his having forwarded from London to Spain a copy of a work, in refutation of the doctrine of pestilential contagion, and in proof of the perniciousness of Sanitary

laws,* and his being reported to the inquisition as the importer of that heterodox work, he was afraid of returning to his country. At the time, I considered this apprehension as idle, or the story as resting upon some very slight foundation. But, being at Madrid in 1821, I mentioned the circumstance to a physician of that town, Dr. de Mendoza, asking him what credit he thought was due to the narrative; to which he replied, that he knew it to be perfectly correct, taking down, at the same time, from his book-case, two volumes, which he said were the identical work in question. He assured me, that the gentleman's apprehensions by no means rested on an imaginary foundation, observing, that, as he was actually in the capital, I might satisfy myself, from his own mouth, respecting the whole of the transactions. However desirous I was of obtaining correct information, being limited as to time, I had not an opportunity of seeing him. Dr. de Mendoza conducts a periodical work, entitled "*Decadas de Medicina y Cirugia Practicas*," in which, since the establishment of freedom of discussion in 1820, he has ably advocated the doctrine of non-contagion, and by consequence the inutility of Sanitary laws. Considering, that, previous to that period, no freedom of discussion or writing prevailed in the Peninsula, it is surprising, and highly creditable to the Spaniards, that they have already made more progress towards correct notions upon this subject, than has been made by any other nation, scarcely perhaps with the exception of the United States of America.

During the last year alone, thanks to the unrestrained political discussions, to which the fever of Barcelona, in the absence of the Inquisition, has given rise, their progress has been greater than during a century of any former period. The injury done to that city, by the sanitary laws, in the autumn of 1821, in re-

* Dr. Maclean's "Results of an investigation respecting epidemic and pestilential Diseases, including Researches in the Levant concerning the Plague."

spect to mortality only, amounted probably to twenty thousand lives; of which loss, a very considerable proportion is attributable to the operation of the French "*Cordon Sanitaire*, and to the efforts of the French medical commission to maintain the prevailing delusion; whereas, from the same intensity of the proper causes, under the application of sound principles, the deaths, beyond the usual mortality in ordinary seasons, would not probably have exceeded five hundred, or at the utmost a thousand. Upon their return to Paris, this commission published one Report, and announced a second. But the second has not appeared; and, from the ridicule, with which their first report, and the whole of their proceedings have been deservedly overwhelmed, it is presumed never will appear. Of his colleagues, since Dr. Pariset, by choosing, on the subject of his mission, so frequently to address the world in his individual name, appears to have taken upon himself the whole responsibility, having been doubtless invested with separate and superior authority, it does not appear necessary that I should state more than the mere names. One (Dr. Maset) died; another, (Dr. Rochoux) seceded; and the remaining two (Drs. Bally and François) were rather passive than active participators of the measures of their chief. For these reasons I would be understood to speak of Dr. Pariset as being in fact the commission, and as representing, in that capacity, the fanatic faction of France. One of the many great obligations, which Spain owes to the sanitary laws, the mention of which ought not, by any means, to be here omitted, is, that by occasioning the Cortes to leave Cadiz, in 1813, they multiplied the facilities, if they did not supply the entire means of overthrowing the constitution, in 1814: and there is also too much reason to believe, that this measure was not purely accidental, but preconcerted. The doctrine of pestilential contagion has, in various ways, afforded rare food to the inquisition. Whilst disbelief has incurred imprisonment and torture, heretics have *been burnt*, on a charge of propagating pestilence,

by means of *contagion*, communicated to staircase bannisters. ARRETS NOTABLES DU PARLEMENT DE TOULOUSE, PAR LAROCHE FLAVIN, LIB. III. TIT. 7. LAFAILLE, ANNALES DE TOULOUSE.

Sanitary laws, like the Holy Inquisition, and the Censorship of the press, whatever may have been their professed objects, have, in fact, as appears conspicuously upon this occasion, been always appropriate engines of despotism, for the oppression and degradation of mankind, whether wielded by an oligarchy, as formerly in Venice, by absolute monarchy, as in various countries of Europe, by an infallible church, or by a domineering parliament. Whilst the professed objects of these institutions have been, to preserve the bodies, the souls, and the morals of men, their real effects have been to render the human race miserable, debased, and demoralised, and to retain them in absolute ignorance and subjection. Why are the functions of the Inquisitor, the Sanitary guardian, and the Censor of the press, held in universal odium? Because, independent of all reasoning, men feel that the vile institutions which they serve, are injurious and disgraceful to society; and because they learn, from history, that these are the hideous offspring of the same common parents, popular superstition, and priestly lust of power, in the dark ages.*

Such were the precious gifts which the French representatives of the views of the holy alliance wished to confer, *volens volens*, as a permanent inheritance, on the people of Spain; but which ungrateful Spain indignantly rejected. Nothing could be more worthy of such a representation, than the attempt, by means so odious and unchristian, as the aggravation of all the miseries of pestilence, to strangle the nascent liberties of a neighbouring nation, to re-introduce the inquisition and the censorship of the press, together with every other blessing of the ancient despotism, as well as to maintain, in a more

* For the origin of this delusion, in its accredited form, see Fra. Paolo Sarpio's "History of the Council of Trent," and Dr. Maclean's "Results of an Investigation respecting Epidemic Diseases," &c.

efficient form, that infallible preventive of surplus population, the system of sanitary laws. Nor, if they had searched the whole globe, could they have found a person better qualified to carry these views into effect, than a physician, who, in his previous capacity of a censor of the press, must have, by a course of practice, become a proficient in the arts of suppressing truth and disseminating error. In their tortuous courses he seemed to be, in fact, the very instrument destined by providence for their guide. It is by no means probable, that they would anywhere have found another person quite so fit for their purposes: nor is it likely that any man of education, who had not served the infamous office of a censor of the press, acting as the executioner or common hangman of truth and knowledge, could be found to prostitute the respectable functions of the physician to the odious purposes of a liberticide faction.*

It is entirely in his capacity of a commissioner of the ultra fanatics of France—as the willing tool of political and religious fanaticism—as a person shamefully lending himself, under the cover of scientific and professional pursuits, to the nefarious views of the vilest faction that ever polluted this our unfortunate planet,—that I consider myself justified in pronouncing an unqualified censure on the proceedings and conduct of Dr. Pariset, in regard to his mission to Barcelona. With his merits as a medical controversialist, I have here nothing to do. If it be criminal, under the cover of scientific pursuits, to conspire against the prosperity of nations—the well-being of the human race—and to act the part of a chief conspirator, I do not know a criminal of a higher order than Dr. Pariset: and, it will not be denied, I think, by the most rigid sticklers for the forms of urbanity, that, there being no positive laws for the punishment of such offenders, to abstain from the exercise of a just severity of reprehension, or to employ qualified language in characterizing proceed-

* On the subject of the censorship of the press, see an excellent treatise, *first published*, by Colonel Leicester Stanhope, entitled, “*Sketch of the story and Influence of the Press in British India*,” &c.

ings of rare enormity, or not to denounce them, in their proper colours, to the honest indignation of the world, would be to be egregiously wanting in the due performance of those duties to society, which circumstances have, perhaps, particularly qualified me to discharge. The orders of his masters, can, in such a case, be no defence or palliation, any more than they would be of robbery or murder. The conduct of Dr. Deveze, his colleague in the central commission of health, in remonstrating, like an honest man, with the government and the chambers, and in refusing to lend himself to such infamy, is a proof that he was under no necessity of compliance. It is fitting, then, for the sake of humanity and of science, that, upon evidence so conclusive of his guilt, Dr. Pariset, *in terrorem* to others who might be allured by similar rewards to become equal malefactors, should be dragged before the supreme tribunal of public opinion,—that tribunal of *derniere resorte*, to which his master, the *Grande Monarchie*, and the prompters and supporters of *his* iniquities, the members of the Holy Alliance, are also amenable—to be dealt with according to his merits. The censure of this dread tribunal, and the stings of a self-reproaching conscience, will be punishments for his evil doings, which the French censorship of the press fortunately can only partially intercept.

The French medical commission, thus headed, arrived at Barcelona the first week in October. On the 13th of that month, Dr. Maset, one of their numbers, was taken ill, and on the 22d died, in the Fonda de los Quatro Naciones, on the Rambla. Another member, Dr. Rochoux, seceded from the commission. The remaining three members, Pariset, Bally and François, shortly afterwards abandoned the scene of action, and went into quarantine quarters, from which Dr. Pariset especially wrote the most misleading reports. According to these the fever was exotic. It was imported from America to Barcelona; it was, of course, contagious. He does not say that any cures were effected. And now to his proofs of its foreign and American origin,

and contagious properties : From its symptoms he declares it to be the yellow fever of the Antilles, and therefore exotic ; but, all diseases being merely conditions of the organs, accompanied by certain distinguishing symptoms, a similar condition of the organs must always be accompanied by similar symptoms, and produced by similar causes, wherever it occurs, without these causes being necessarily transmitted from one country to another ; that the cause of this disease was brought from America, was inferred from the mere fact of the arrival of ships from that quarter, six weeks previous to its commencement, although these ships had then no sickness on board, although at the time of their departure there was no epidemic at the places from whence they had come, and although no fever appeared in any of the other ten or twelve ports of Spain and Portugal, at which other vessels of the same fleet had arrived. This might be deemed refutation sufficient of the allegations that the cause of the fever of Barcelona, in 1821, was exotic, and that it was imported from America. But there is one, if possible, still more conclusive. If we show that the fever of Barcelona was not propagated by contagion, it will follow that its cause could not be exotic, and *a fortiori*, that it could not be imported from America. And what are the proofs that it was not propagated by contagion ; the best and most scientific proof of a negative is assuredly the absence of all proof of the affirmative. “ *De quid non existimibus, et de quid non apparentibus eadem est ratio.*” But farther, all the circumstances which have been relied upon, as evidence, in favour of contagion, prove directly the contrary. “ If we had no other instance,” say the commissioners, “ than that of our unfortunate friend (Dr. Maset), it would alone be sufficient.”—What, then, are the circumstances of this case ? After nine days of illness, not another person in the same house (an hotel), where there was necessarily much communication with the sick man, was affected. A Catalan and his wife, who *had, during the whole period, constantly attended*

him, remained in perfect health. An English gentleman, who had been his companion during the first seven days of his illness, and shook hands with him, in taking leave, two days before his death, was not visited by any sickness. A French emigrant, Mr. Bousquet Deschamps, who had scarcely for a single hour quitted his room, from the commencement of his malady, to the moment of his death, was not affected. In a letter dated Barcelona Nov. 1, 1821, addressed by Mr. Deschamps, to the English gentleman alluded to, then in quarantine at the convent of San Geronimo de la Murtra, he says, "Vous savez sans doute que le malheureux Maset a succombé à la maladie le 22 du mois dernier. Il est mort dans mes bras après une agonie de soixante heures." None of the physicians who attended him were affected. Here, then, in defiance of the positive fact of the safety of every person, without exception, who had had intercourse with Dr. Maset, during his illness, it is with inconceivable confidence assumed that the disease must have been communicated by contagion to himself.

I cannot allow this opportunity to pass, without stating some circumstances relating to Mr. Deschamps, which are highly characteristic of the present ultra government of France. He was an *Avocat* at the Parisian bar, and is a young man of very considerable talents. Having committed the crime of becoming, in the exercise of his professional duties, the official defender of *Louvel*, the assassin of the Duke de Berry, and of writing occasionally, in the French journals, articles which were not quite after the taste of the predominant faction, several processes were instituted against him; he was condemned on each; and the sum total of the various imprisonments awarded to him did not exceed the moderate period of SIXTY YEARS; the collective amount of the fines which were imposed upon him, so trifling an imprisonment not being deemed sufficient, I do not now remember, but it was enormous. At first I deemed this statement incredible; I was, however, assured of its truth, upon authority worthy

of reliance : and any person who may deem the circumstances so curious as to merit farther inquiry, may satisfy himself by a reference to Mr. Deschamps, who is now in France, to the English gentleman above alluded to, whose name however I do not think it right to mention in this place, as I do not know that he may not be actually in the power of the fanatic faction, whose misdeeds are here in question, or finally to the records of the French courts of *Justice*, if indeed they are not like the state prisoners, kept *au secret*.

Mr. Deschamps having the unaccountable taste of preferring to breathe for a short time the free air of the mountains of Catalonia, even at the risk of being sometimes without food, to the luxury of inhabiting the most splendid prison of France, having his regular supply of subsistence for sixty years, ensured, at the expense of the *Grande Monarche*, escaped into Spain. He soon acquired a knowledge of the language of that country, by which means, and by his general accomplishments, he was enabled to render essential services to the French medical commission, upon their arrival at Barcelona, where he had resided in perfect security from sickness, during the whole of the epidemic, associating freely with the inhabitants of all parts of the town, and generously rendering assistance to some of his Spanish acquaintances, who had fallen sick of the prevailing fever. Their first interview, owing to certain collisions which had previously taken place, in Paris, between Mr. Deschamps, as a public writer, and Dr. Pariset, as a censor of the press, was rather embarrassing ; by their mutual wants, however, these awkwardnesses were soon smoothed. A stranger, in want of information, and liable to be misled, Dr. Pariset could not have met with any other guide so efficient in Barcelona ; and Mr. Deschamps might reasonably expect, that, by rendering essential services to the commission, he should entitle himself to a remission of the fines and imprisonments which were hanging over his head in France. In *this understanding*, they acted very harmoniously

together, whilst they remained at Barcelona, and during their journey to France, until the period of their second quarantine at Belgarde, when, as I have been informed, a quarrel was sought with Mr. Deschamps, by Dr. Pariset, or the commission, who, their own object being served, had perhaps found the performance of the other part of the covenant not entirely convenient, or probably wished to exact greater subserviency, than a mind such as that of Mr. Deschamps could readily stoop to practice. Be these things as they may, I have it from undoubted authority, that Mr. Deschamps, in returning to France, upon the faith of the protection of Dr. Pariset, found himself much disappointed; and that he was seized, and compelled to suffer a whole year's imprisonment. To be sure it cannot be denied that the remission of *fifty-nine years' imprisonment*, and of *proportionate fines*, were something; and undoubtedly they would have been something very handsome, had not the sentences originally been so preposterous, that any other government than one of ultra fanatics would have been ashamed of them, and afraid of their being made known to the world. One year too of a man's life is much too great a portion to be sacrificed to the mere whims of despotism; and, if they had not been mere whims, but that some punishment was deserved, the decent regard due to the opinions of society, on the subject of crimes and punishments, required, that in the case of Mr. Deschamps, who had performed such signal services to the medical representatives of the French government, and at Barcelona, must have returned to France upon the faith of certain promises from these representatives, the remission should have been complete. Had he, in the course of the journey, allowed any expressions to escape him, of disbelief or doubt of the existence of pestilential contagion, or of his knowledge of the real objects of Sanitary laws, which a mind like his could hardly have failed to infer, even from the facts and reasonings of his companions themselves?

These reflections lead me by a natural transition

to notice the treatment of the *Sœurs de la Charité* from Paris, who formed part of the retinue of the French medical commission. The reports prevailing at Barcelona, on this subject, were, that one of the sisters, who had assiduously performed her duties of attending and succouring the sick, but had no faith in pestilential contagion, met with nothing but neglect and ill-treatment from the commissioners, whilst the other, who had wholly neglected her duties to the sick, but had abundance of faith, was protected, cherished, and rewarded. To these rumours I felt it difficult, at Barcelona, to give full credence, suspecting that they might have been, in some degree, the offspring of party animosity, which, upon this occasion, ran rather high; but, upon afterwards visiting Paris, finding the same thing deliberately stated, in a French translation of the Barcelona anti-contagion manifesto of fifteen native and foreign physicians (p. 24, note); and the statement of a fact so disgraceful to scientific men, remaining uncontradicted, although all the parties concerned were on the spot, I could no longer feel justified in doubting its authenticity:—"La Sœur Josephine Morell, sans avoir éprouvé le moindre dérangement dans sa santé, a soigné, avec une charité capable d'honorer les plus beaux temps du christianisme, 250 femmes atteintes de l'épidémie. Cette respectable Sœur ne croyait pas à la contagion; aussi a-t-elle éprouvé toutes sortes de vexations de M. M. les Commissaires, tandis que la Sœur Vincent, vraie croyante sur ce chapitre, a reçu toutes les faveurs de ces Messieurs. Cependant ses services se sont bornés, à passer tout son temps au Consulat Français, à prendre soin de leurs bouillons et de leurs tisanes.—(*Voyez pour plus de Détails l'Ind. Catalan*, 20 Jan. 1822.)"

The other case, on which Dr. Pariset seems mainly to rely for his justification, is that of Tortosa: "In our conception, the yellow fever of Barcelona is contagious,—and the conviction is confirmed by what has happened at Tortosa."—What had really happened at Tortosa?—In consequence of the dread

inspired by the events of Barcelona, sanitary laws were imposed in that city, several weeks before the appearance of any malady, and enforced with such extraordinary rigor, as even to give rise to complaints from the Military Governor De Haro, to the Captain General of Catalonia; yet the disease appeared, and run its course, as if no regulations had been established, or rather with a terrible increase of severity, in consequence of their operation. A great proportion of the inhabitants, both healthy and sick, emigrated from Tortosa, and many of them took refuge in two villages on the opposite banks of the Ebro, called Jesus and Las Roquettas. Here the healthy generally remained in health, and the sick generally recovered, and not an individual of the inhabitants of these villages was affected, who had not visited the foul air of Tortosa. Nothing can be clearer to plain understandings, than, that, if the inhabitants of Jesus and Las Roquettas were not affected with disease, in consequence of intercourse with *the sick* from Tortosa, but in consequence of intercourse with *Tortosa itself*, they must have been affected by the air of the town, not by communication with its sick inhabitants. Either this conclusion must be taken as correct; or it must be assumed that persons, capable of propagating a disease, by contagion, on the left bank of the Ebro, cease to possess that capability upon being removed to the right bank. But the difficulty was, for commissioners, who were under instructions to report in a certain sense, to report also according to the truth. Had Dr. Pariset determined to report only what was to be seen, he need not have gone so far as Tortosa, considering the superabundance in which materials of conviction existed in Barcelona itself. Of the municipal and other constituted authorities, the militia, the physicians, nurses, religious persons, washers of hospital linen, and even carriers of the dead, who were of course all in frequent communication, directly or indirectly with the sick, the dying and the dead, but not all necessarily in constant communication with the most pestilential part

of the atmosphere of the city, it is notorious that a much smaller proportion fell sick than of the population generally. The parts of the town which were principally affected might be described by a line. At a certain height the atmosphere became innoxious. The uppermost parts were totally exempt from disease, as were the villages in the immediate neighbourhood, although these upper parts and the villages were daily visited by many thousands, from the lower parts of Barcelona, and from Barceloneta, sick and in health, during the whole period of the epidemic. Under this uninterrupted intercourse, the circumscribed and diffused limits of the site of the cause of the disease, was alone demonstration of its non-contagious nature. But one still more striking, because a more direct proof, was the almost total exemption from sickness of the nurses and other constant attendants on the sick, in the *hospitals* generally. In that of the *seminario*, which contained the greatest number of patients, the exemption was so complete, that only *three* out of *ninety* attendants were slightly affected, and these must be presumed to have been exposed to its cause by going to other parts of the town, or previous to their entrance. Such is the situation of this building, that, in the height of the epidemic, I should have chosen it as a place of refuge, a secure asylum, even amidst thousands of the sick. It was in this hospital that Dr. Pariset and his colleagues had patients and wards assigned to them; which, in consequence of predetermination, or alarm, they speedily abandoned. Writing to a friend at Madrid, he says, "In fact, my beloved friend, *the disease is so inveterate and fatal that there is not the desired facility for the dissection of bodies, nor of remaining in the hospital the necessary time, in order deliberately to observe the disorder.*" Yet the physicians of Barcelona did continue, throughout the epidemic, to remain in the hospital, "the necessary time to observe the disorder," and the English Dr. O'Halloran continued his dissections, from the period of his arrival at Barcelona, to the termination of the malady. And, in

no instance, was any of them affected with disease. If the facts, which I have stated, were unknown to Dr. Pariset, it was not that they were obscure, or difficult to be ascertained; and, if we could acquit him of a predetermination to admit no cause but contagion, we could not possibly acquit him of having given a hasty and a rash, as well as a palpably unfounded decision, in its favour. Any man, who, without being able to disprove these facts, will persist in denying that the non-existence of contagion is a conclusion, which they clearly establish, must be of that description of persons, with whom it would be worse than idle to argue.

It is a remarkable circumstance in the history of that period, that, whilst Dr. Pariset and his colleagues were, under the authority of the desperate faction, which unfortunately possesses power in France, fanatically preaching contagion from their quarantine quarters, an association of fifteen physicians, of four different nations, all independent of any government, and all volunteers, were spontaneously assembled at Barcelona, to inquire into the real merits of the case, and to communicate to the world their conclusions, derived from a long continued and laborious examination of facts, scrupulously investigated; and that these conclusions, the results of the deliberate conferences of several months, with the whole of the subject before them, should have been diametrically opposite to those which the French commission had hastily formed, as the result of a rapid *coup d'œil* of as many weeks, with their minds in the utmost state of perturbation! But Dr. Pariset endeavours to supply by confidence what he wants in correctness and deliberation. Taking shelter under the ægis of the fanaticism just restored to fashion in France; and secure from reply by the censorship on the press, under which his country so ignominiously groans, he writes *private* letters to his friends, which are immediately *made public* in the French journals, denouncing the worthy physicians of Barcelona as blasphemers! One of his tirades, from which I

have taken the following extract, is appropriately addressed to the physician of the *Lazaretto* at Marseilles:

“To deny contagion is to deny God, said a Spanish physician to us; and *he was right*: it is to deny the light, it is to deny an evidence as striking as the day. We should be culpable in leaving free scope to such pernicious errors; and I cannot believe there is a more painful situation than that of the physicians of Barcelona, who have taken * * * * and consorts for their guide and authority. Their own work confounds them, the cry of so many victims overwhelms them; they are, as it were, ashamed to live on the gulf, into which they have precipitated so many unfortunate beings. Whilst a *second* of sincerity, a slight sacrifice of self-love, a shade of diffidence of themselves, would have spared Catalonia so many evils, and themselves so much opprobrium and repentance! They think to escape opinion; but opinion overtakes and judges them, and the very vulgar condemn, after having exalted them.”

This is pretty well for a person who had only bestowed a few weeks attention on the subject, who had not effected a single cure, and who, according to his colleague, Dr. Deveze, (*Memoire*, p. 10), had before “scarcely seen” the disease. His anathemas resemble more a sentence of excommunication, pronounced by the holy inquisition, against unbelievers, than the results of the researches of the scientific inquirer. Here the commissioner had, doubtless, an eye to the speedy re-establishment in Spain, by the efforts of his government, aided by his own best endeavours, of that exquisite tribunal, by which questions of science, and all other questions, were wont to be decided, in a manner at once summary and conclusive. And, in that case, woe be to the respectable Physicians of Barcelona, who did not bow to the infallibility of Dr. Pariset, but had the provoking integrity openly to oppose his projects. Truly it becomes this personage to talk of “sincerity,” — “sacrifice of self-love,” — “diffidence

of ones-self,"—" opprobrium and repentance," &c. He threatens his opponents too with " opinion," meaning, no doubt, the opinion of *his employers*; but, as the inquisition has *not* been restored, it will be a much more difficult task, on his part, to escape the condemnation of a far higher tribunal—the opinion of *the public*. Mortified and disappointed at finding himself abandoned or opposed by all the physicians of principal consideration at Barcelona, he even invokes against them the presumed authority of the vulgar; " and the very vulgar condemn after exalting them." But, let us see how this matter has really stood. It is notorious, that Lazarettos were held in odium by the people of Barcelona and Barceloneta, who even manifested somewhat beyond a disposition forcibly to resist the application of the sanitary laws. On the 7th of September, they broke the windows of Dr. Bahi, Professor of Botany, and Member of the Superior Junta of Sanidad, for having evinced a particular zeal in favour of these restrictions; and, had the crowd not been dispersed, they would probably have proceeded to further acts of violence. After having for some time concealed himself in his garden, the Professor was obliged to take refuge in the country.—(See " Succinct relation of the events of 1821," by the Municipality of Barcelona, p. 110, 11.) Without at all approving of these physical modes of manifesting opinion, I may be allowed to observe that it is sometimes the only mode left to the people, who are, in such cases, in their sentiments seldom mistaken; that, if forcible resistance be ever justifiable, it is in opposing the application of sanitary laws; and, that it is not true that the people of Barcelona subsequently manifested any change of opinion respecting the merits of the restrictions in question. Let physicians then cease to calumniate the people, by alledging that they are the supporters of prejudices, which, wherever they are free to manifest their opinions, and the opportunity occurs, they invariably oppose.

During the confusion and terror occasioned by

the disease, the authority of the French commission, joined to that of the official native physicians, or juntas, whose interest or belief favoured the maintenance of sanitary laws, or whose wishes led to the re-establishment of despotism, prevailed with the government of the province, and the Municipality of Barcelona; and the adventitious scourge of sanitary laws continued to be added to the proper causes of pestilence, during the whole of the epidemic.

Alarmed, however, lest, in consequence of the elucidation produced by the exertions of the fifteen independent physicians, the same stratagem might cease to be available in future, the partisans of despotism and sanitary laws deprecated the proceedings of this spontaneous association; and, like monks, when a ray of light unexpectedly breaks into their cell, began to cry "fire." It might have been thought that foreign physicians, coming, as volunteers, and at their own expense, from distant parts of the world, to examine the fever of Barcelona, and native physicians, freely and magnanimously renouncing favourite pre-conceived notions, on important subjects of science, might, in justice and in reason, have been deemed to be entitled to complete exemption from the charge or suspicion of interested motives. But reason and justice had nothing to do with the conduct of these partisans. Mortified and disappointed, at finding, that, although it could not be denied that they had been eminently successful in doing present mischief, and therefore in accomplishing one of the objects of their patrons, their reasoning, as far as it might be known, was likely to become the ridicule of the present generation, and their names, as far as they might be remembered, the execration of posterity; they appeared to feel that they had no resource left but to impute sinister motives to their adversaries. The meetings of the independent physicians they represented as assemblages, having for their real, but secret object, the overthrow of the Spanish government! With admirable consistency, the hired emissaries of foreign, and the functionaries in expectation of

domestic despotism, accused the volunteer physicians of being bribed by commerce to mislead the world! Men, who dare not approach a yellow fever patient, without being protected by oil-cloth dresses, reproached those who felt with respect to that disease as with respect to any other, with want of experience! Had the inquisition been restored, these charges would have had their effect.

Amidst these surmises, by which they were much amused, the association of independent physicians proceeded steadily with the task of preparing their joint manifesto to the Cortes and government of Spain. It was presented in March, 1822; and, together with other representations subsequently made to the legislature, had the effect of producing first the postponement, and afterwards the total rejection, in October, 1822, of the project of a code of sanitary laws, which had for several years been in a course of preparation, by three successive committees of public health; leaving it certain, that, excepting under the very improbable supposition of the restoration of despotism and the inquisition, no code of this description will ever again be adopted in Spain.

Thus, in all the most essential and permanent objects of his mission to Barcelona, for the advancement of the cause of despotism, Dr. Pariset has completely failed. He failed, because, far from being able to prove the existence of contagion, in the fever of Barcelona, by which alone he could have succeeded, its non-existence was demonstrated to the entire satisfaction of a majority of the Spanish Cortes, and of all reasonable and unbiassed men, who had examined the subject. Of this failure, as it regarded the justification of the *Cordon Sanitaire*, the subsequent proceedings of the French Ministers themselves are a virtual acknowledgement. Besides the proofs which I have already given, that sanitary precautions could never have been the real object of assembling the so-called Army of the *Cordon*, when that object was supposed to be ripe for execution, or could no longer be denied, these Minis-

ters, laying aside a mask which had ceased to answer its purpose, boldly abandoned all subterfuge, and unblushingly avowed their original perfidy.

The next object of this mission, in the order in which I have taken them, was to create a pretext for the establishment of new lazarettos and new measures of sanitary police, along the whole line of the frontier, from Perpignan to Bayonne; by which travellers and their papers would be subjected to a permanent system of rigid surveillance, and the Spanish rebels, when discomfited in the interior, received, sheltered, re-clothed, and re-vomited upon their native soil. For this fact we have no less an authority than that of one of Dr. Pariset's colleagues, in the French Central Commission of Health, Dr. Deveze, a man of real experience of yellow fever, and of reputation for knowledge and integrity. In a memorial to the king in council, and the two chambers, protesting against the project of sanitary laws drawn up by that commission, this independent physician (p. 8) says:—"M. Pariset après avoir démontré dans vingt passages de son ouvrage, que la fièvre jaune n'est ni importée ni contagieuse, finit pourtant par dire qu'elle est importée, qu'elle est contagieuse. Et cette conclusion *ne paraît pas être chez lui le résultat de son intime conviction, MAIS la condition nécessaire à l'établissement de nouveaux lazarets et de nouvelles mesures sanitaires, SEUL BUT DE SON VOYAGE EN ESPAGNE, PAR ORDRE DU GOUVERNEMENT.*" Here, then, we find it roundly asserted, by a Member of the Central Commission of Health, who would not, it is to be presumed, be disposed gratuitously to libel the government, by which he was employed, that the *sole* object of Dr. Pariset's Journey to Spain, by their order, was such as I have stated; which, even if there were not other proofs, would sufficiently authorise the conclusion, that it was, at any rate, *part* of the object of that journey.

This was, indeed, an object of the last importance to the accomplishment of the ends, which the French

government had in view. It would have given them permanently, as they had already transiently, by means of the temporary lazarettos of Beobia and Belgarde, the power, if not always of ascertaining the opinions, at least of perusing the papers, of every traveller entering France from Spain. In the lazarettos, the trunks, portmanteaux, and other packages, of the persons in quarantine, were deposited, *open*, under the pretence of purification, in a large warehouse, of which, the key remained in the possession of the commandant or captain, who had of course the opportunity, of which it is not presumable that he did not avail himself, of ransacking them, at any hour of the day or night, during the whole period of each quarantine.*

These asylums would also serve, upon a larger, as Beobia and Belgarde, had already served upon a smaller scale, as places of refuge for all the discomfited rebels, who might be obliged to fly from Spain; from whence, after plotting, in safety, new treasons against their country, they might be again

* Some apposite observations, upon this subject, by an eye-witness of the events of the 7th of July, 1822, at Madrid, are to be met with in the *Morning Chronicle*, of the 3d of September, of that year. After various remarks upon the farcical proceedings at the Lazaretto of Beobia, the writer thus proceeds:

"But there is one piece of superlative villainy practised under the pretence of purification, which, as it may hitherto have escaped public reprehension, I must here solemnly denounce, in order, if possible, to make those political culprits, who are the authors of this scandalous cheat, ashamed of their conduct, or, if that be hopeless, to put all travellers upon their guard. It is the practice to put all the baggage (of the persons doing quarantine) in one warehouse, trunks, portmanteaux, and every denomination of package, being left open, under the pretence of airing, so that all papers, even the most private and confidential letters, are exposed to inspection; travellers being only allowed to take into their chambers, such articles as they immediately require about their persons. There can be no doubt in the mind of any rational or unbiassed man, that the object of this nefarious regulation, is to obtain a knowledge of the business and political principles of every person, who crosses the Bidassoa." Had the French ultras succeeded thus far, they might afterwards, in perfecting the system, by a trifling extension of the principle, have imposed the penance of quarantine, in the ports of the British channel, on all travellers, *leaving*, as well as *entering* France; by which they would have established a somewhat less repulsive, less unjust, and less cruel, as well as a more efficient and compendious system of getting at the secrets of men, than by the practice of forcibly violating the sanctity of private correspondence, and imprisoning *au secret*, innocent and meritorious individuals, as was recently perpetrated at Calais, in the case of the gifted and indefatigable honorary secretary of the Greek committee, Mr. Bowring.

TRANSLATOR.

returned into its bosom, re-equipped, and supplied with fresh means of corrupting their fellow-citizens. The disturbances, and insurrections, thus deliberately and systematically excited by themselves, the French fanatic faction were afterwards to turn to their account, by converting them, with marvellous effrontery, into a criminal charge against the constitutional government of Spain. Surely these beings must imagine Europe to be as destitute of discernment, as they are themselves of modesty.

But so strongly was public opinion pronounced in Spain, and in England, against the projected institutions, which were, in derision, christened beforehand, "*the Sanitary Institutions of the holy alliance*," that the French government found it necessary, notwithstanding the barrier opposed by the censorship to the free circulation of truth, to abandon their plan. So palpable, indeed, had the atrocious nature of this scheme, at length, become, and so great and general was the indignation, which it had excited, that it was deemed expedient, by the French ministers, in vindication of their conduct, to make his most Christian majesty the instrument of prevarication and falsehood. Having, as it would seem, no proper feelings of their own, and disregarding, even in appearance, the honour of their master, these ministers, in order to serve a temporary purpose, did not scruple to exhibit him in the doubly contemptible character of a deceiver and a dupe. They first make him deny, in his speech, at the opening of the chambers, in 1822, the justice of the imputations, which had been so generally cast upon the *Cordon Sanitaire* and the medical commission to Barcelona, and attribute them to malevolence; and afterwards, directly falsify these royal assertions, by acknowledging and glorying in those very acts of perfidy, towards Spain, which they had thought fit, for so long a period, to disavow.

With respect to the third object of the French government, the production of sickness, mortality, insurrection, civil war, and counter-revolution, there cannot be a doubt, since cause is invariably followed

by effect, that the appointment of the medical commission, and still more the conduct of the commissioners, vociferating as it were contagion through the streets, must have greatly added to the general terror, previously produced by the establishment of the *Cordon Sanitaire*, and thereby proportionally aggravated all the evils mentioned. That these results were eagerly desired, by the French fanatic faction, and eagerly attempted to be brought about, by the agency of their military cordon, and medical commission, it would be as irrational to doubt, as that a general, who wantonly besieges a town, although he would not be known directly to murder the garrison, in cool blood, would not hesitate to use every means in his power to starve them to death, or to a compliance with his unjustifiable wishes. Although they were not able, by the united force of all the powerful and profligate means employed, to produce a counter-revolution; yet, it cannot be denied, that, in respect to the other evils meditated, by aggravating the calamities of pestilence, the measures of the French government have been eminently successful.

Respecting the fourth head of their designs, since its failure was necessarily included in that of the first and second heads, a very few observations will suffice. That sanitary laws are appropriate engines of despotism for the oppression and degradation of mankind, has been sufficiently manifested. This is clearly elucidated by an analysis of their nature, origin, operation, and effects. Is it not, then, obvious, from the very nature of things, that, besides availing themselves of this appropriate engine to accomplish their immediate designs against the liberties of Spain, the French fanatics, and the holy alliance, would earnestly desire, for the promotion of the common cause of despotism, that its adoption should be generally extended? Hence, the conduct of Dr. Pariset is easily explicable, but upon no other principle: and, if this missionary, instead of blasphemously invoking the name of God, had affirmed, that, "to deny contagion was to deny the holy al-

liance," he would have been correct. It is immaterial to inquire, whether these potentates could have been aware of the extent, to which these institutions operated favourably to the interests of despotism, and injuriously to those of mankind. If they were not minutely acquainted with all the ramifications of these effects, they at least knew enough of the restrictive tendencies of sanitary laws, to insure for them their strong and everlasting attachment: and is there a man so silly as to believe that, a greater intimacy with the merits of these institutions could have produced, in such minds, any other effect than a still farther increase of regard? Can there be a human being, imbecile enough to believe, that, the coalesced powers, if they knew the full extent of the mischiefs of sanitary laws to mankind, unless they were, at the same time, ignorant of the full extent of their benefits to despotism, would desire their abolition?—If there be such a person, he must have very different ideas, from those which I entertain, respecting the nature of absolute power, and its influence upon the human mind.

If, by the destruction of one-half of the inhabitants of Spain, the other half could be permanently enslaved, and if to realise these pious measures were in the option of the French fanatic faction, and the holy alliance, what ought we reasonably to suppose that they would do? Is there a man bold enough to guarantee, if his own life were to be the security, that these potentates would, from compunction, wheel round to the side of humanity, and, in preference, preserve the lives and the liberties of the whole inhabitants of the Peninsula? Such is not the nature of despotism!

THE END.

LONDON:

Printed by D. S. Maurice, Fenchurch-street.







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